GIRLS BOARDING DEPARTMENT

at

TAHLEQUAH. CHEROKEE NATION. I.T.

The Missions of the Presbyterian Church among the Cherokee Indians has been wonderfully blessed of God. This is especially true of the Tahlequah Mission. Two years ago the Tahlequah church numbered 37 members, Park Hill, Eureka and Pleasant Valley were set off. These churches have increased three-fold in membership. Twenty miles from Tahlequah are the Fort Gibson and An churches. Tahlequah is the commercial and political centre of all these churches. (See map showing the location of these churches.) The recent circular of the Womans' Ex. Committee of Home Missions says under the head of Schools. "The plan now is, to establish near the centre of each Mission, a school of higher grade than the other schools, for the training of teachers and the preparation of young men who expect to enter college, with the view of studying for the ministry."

Tahlequah is the Capital of the Cherokee Nation, the centre of our most successful missionary work, and remarkably healthy as compared with many other portions of the Nation. A large day school has been in successful operation for 18 months. A charter was given by the recent council to the Board of Home Missions, authorizing the enlargement of the school and the erection of all necessary buildings. The success of our work depends on the establishment of a Boarding Department. Unless this is done, our work in character

forming will be imperfectly done. The plan of Boarding Department for the girls requires an expenditure of $2300. This will provide accommodations for three teachers and twenty-four girls. By crowding somewhat, eight more can be received or thirty-two in all. The plan of the building has been submitted to the President of the Womans' Ex.Committee of Home Missions.

This estimate is on a cash basis. Half the amount will be required by June 1st 1886 and the balance in six or nine months thereafter. The lumber can be bought at the mill six miles from Tahlequah at $10 per thousand feet.

As it is indispensable that a beginning be made Sept.1st 1886, when the next scholastic year will commence we could make out for a while with the main building and cistern.

These would cost $1800. The above only provides accommodations for the girls. The boys will be boarded in the family of the minister in charge of the Missions. Dr. Hill has contracted for valuable property for parsonage and boarding of the boys. It is only intended to receive a very few of them, giving preference to such as may reasonably be expected to become preachers of the Gospel. Some seven or eight hundred dollars remain unpaid on the property. About three thousand dollars will be required to place the Tahlequah Mission in such condition that the results will be satisfactory to the church.

In addition to the beneficiaries of the church there will be boarding pupils from the wealthier families of the Cherokees.

These are able to pay the board of their children. In addition to the boarders the three teachers will have under their instruction a large number of day scholars. The church is now fitted up with desks for 74 pupils and there is room for at least 30 more desks.

The delay of another year in the establishment of the Boarding Department will prove very disastrous to our cause. We will lose much of our influence among the Cherokees by a delay that cannot be explained.